

Weekly Column for January 20, 2005

Last night the City held its first meeting concerning the Upper Hudson Rivers and Estuaries Center, which has a proposed location of the old Scolite property on Madison Avenue in South Troy.

The meeting lasted several hours and the overall perception is that this project can bring a lot to the City of Troy. Through a joint partnership with the City, New York State Department of State and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute the Rivers and Estuaries Satellite Center has the potential to provide public access to the Hudson River, public recreational opportunities along the river, and supply connectivity to other local resources on the Scolite property.

The public hearing took place at the Polish American Club in South Troy, and was well attended. There will be future hearings before any movement is made in the project.

As I talk with both developers and interested residents about the project, I make sure that each party knows that this project needs to be put on the fast track. That does not mean that it will not go through a rigorous planning process, it will. However, if all goes well and according to plan, development in Troy will soon hit high levels that have not been seen in some time. It is imperative that if we are to move forward with the potential that this project hold, we do so within an appropriate time period that will not disrupt or dissuade other development from taking place, particularly along the Hudson River.

I want to thank Governor George Pataki for choosing Troy as a possible site for this exciting endeavor. While we have much work to do, and many aspects of the potential project to work out, it is nonetheless full of possibilities. And we are always excited about possibility.

Earlier this year, the City Council approved a rezoning plan for the Hudson River Waterfront that will help this project, and other development in the future. I want to thank them for their support as well.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints about this project, or anything else in the City, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.